

HOUSE BILL 728

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M2

2001 Regular Session
(11r0656)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Environmental Matters/Economic and Environmental Affairs --

Introduced by **Delegates Guns, Weir, and D'Amato**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Mute Swans - Management**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources to establish a
4 program to control the population of mute swans; ~~requiring~~ authorizing the
5 Department to include the managed harvest of adult mute swans in this
6 program; ~~requiring~~ authorizing the Department to solicit licensed hunters to
7 participate in the managed harvest of adult mute swans; and generally relating
8 to the management of the mute swan population.

9 BY adding to
10 Article - Natural Resources
11 Section 10-211
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2000 Replacement Volume)

1 Preamble

2 WHEREAS, The nonnative bird species known as the mute swan is causing
3 ecological damage to areas of the Chesapeake Bay;

4 WHEREAS, Reports indicate that the population of mute swans in the State has
5 grown from 5 mute swans in 1962 to about 4,000 mute swans at present;

6 WHEREAS, Mute swans are aggressive birds that have forced other birds, such
7 as least terns and black skimmers out of areas, such as Hooper's Island, where these
8 other waterfowl naturally congregate;

9 WHEREAS, Reports indicate that a mute swan can eat between 8 and 9 pounds
10 of submerged aquatic vegetation per day;

11 WHEREAS, Reports indicate that the mute swan population destroys between 9
12 and 11 million pounds of submerged aquatic vegetation per year; now, therefore,

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 10-211.

17 (A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO CONTROL THE
18 POPULATION OF THE NONNATIVE BIRD SPECIES KNOWN AS THE MUTE SWAN.

19 (B) ~~(+)~~ THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION ~~SHALL, WHERE~~
20 APPROPRIATE, MAY INCLUDE:

21 (1) THE MANAGED HARVEST OF ADULT MUTE SWANS; AND

22 (2) THE ~~DEPARTMENT SHALL SOLICIT~~ SOLICITATION OF LICENSED
23 HUNTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MANAGED HARVEST OF ADULT MUTE SWANS
24 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 July 1, 2001.